

DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNICIANS construct and repair dental appliances such as crowns, bridges, dentures, and orthodontic appliances. They use a variety of hand tools to perform tasks. The tasks may include mixing ingredients, filling dental-appliance molds, sculpting and building forms, bending and soldering wires, and grinding and polishing finished work. They follow instructions written by the dentist and use models and impressions of patients' teeth or mouth.

In some laboratories, Dental Laboratory Technicians are all-around workers having full responsibility for studying prescriptions, planning the work, and designing, constructing, repairing, reworking, or adjusting dental appliances. In most laboratories, however, each Technician concentrates on one aspect of the work.

Requirements

- ▲ Completion of an accredited two-year course in dental laboratory technology is preferred by many employers.
- ▲ Finger and manual dexterity.
- ▲ Arm-hand steadiness.
- ▲ Attentiveness to detail.
- ▲ Ability to visualize how something will look when complete.

Wages

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| ▲ Dental Laboratory Technicians | |
| Median hourly wage: | \$15.68 |
| ▲ Average annual wage: | \$35,531 |

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2006 by EDD/LMID.

Dental Laboratory Technicians

Job Outlook

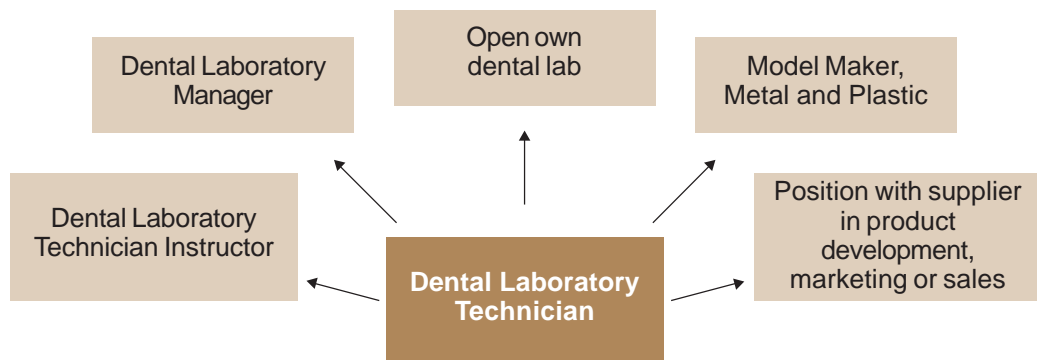
- ▲ Estimated number of Dental Laboratory Technicians in 2004: 6,200
- ▲ Estimated number of Dental Laboratory Technicians in 2014: 6,700
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 190

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ National Board for Certification
(800) 950-1150
www.nbccert.org
- ▲ *California Occupational Guide*, No. 243
Dental Laboratory Technicians

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.